

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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TRANSPORTATION SPENDING BILL INCLUDES \$900,000 FOR SULLIVAN COUNTY

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the House of Representatives passed a spending bill that includes \$900,000 for projects in Sullivan County. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey had requested the funding.

"I am gratified that the Transportation Appropriations bill includes funding for my priority requests," said Hinchey. "Sullivan County has limited resources with which to support an extensive public transit system so these improvements would not be possible without federal assistance."

The House today passed the conference report that resolves the differences between the House and Senate versions of the Transportation Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2002. Passage of the conference report is the final step before the president signs it into law. The Senate is expected to pass the report shortly.

The bill contains \$500,000 for Countywide Coordinated Public Transportation Services. The funding will help Sullivan County to purchase buses, infrastructure and facilities for new public transportation services throughout Sullivan County. The improvements will help the County meet the transportation needs of people with disabilities and those participating in Welfare-to-Work and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families programs. Hinchey secured \$1.2 million for this project in fiscal year 2001.

Hinchey also succeeded in placing \$400,000 in the FY '02 bill for Sullivan County through the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute program. This initiative will allow increased transit service in an area with a high concentration of welfare recipients and low-income individuals.

"Enhancing our transportation services is vital to the County's economic development efforts," said Sullivan County Manager Dan Briggs. "Congressman Hinchey has worked hard to help meet the needs of Sullivan County and we appreciate it."